

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A pedal apparatus for a vehicle, comprising:

a supporting bracket fixed to a dash panel of the vehicle;

5 a pedal arm pivotally connected to the supporting bracket; and

a lever hooked at one end to the pedal arm, said lever being configured and dimensioned to be struck by a striking portion under deformation by a front impact of the vehicle causing the pedal arm to rotate in a direction of the front of the vehicle by torque transferred from the lever.

10 2. The pedal apparatus of claim 1, wherein:

the pedal arm has a first pin pivotally connected to the supporting bracket and a second pin at an end of the pedal arm opposite to an end with a foot pad; and

15 the lever has a third pin pivotally connected to the supporting bracket, a hook portion hooked to the second pin of the pedal arm, and an impact portion opposite to the striking portion.

3. The pedal apparatus of claim 2, wherein the striking portion is defined as an additional structure formed on a dash panel or a mounting plate for a steering wheel.

20 4. The pedal apparatus of claim 3, wherein the impact portion rotates about the third pin in the direction of the front of the vehicle such that the hook portion rotates about the third pin in a direction of the rear of the vehicle,

25 and wherein the second pin hooked by the hook portion rotates about the first pin in the direction of the rear of the vehicle such that the end of the pedal arm adhering a pad rotates about the first pin in a direction of the front of the vehicle.

5. The pedal apparatus of claim 4, wherein the pedal apparatus is a brake pedal apparatus.

6. The pedal apparatus of claim 4, wherein the pedal apparatus is a clutch pedal apparatus.

5 7. A pedal apparatus for a vehicle, comprising:

a pedal arm configured to be pivotably mounted to a dash panel with an upper end above the pivot and a lower, foot operated end below the pivot;

a lever pivotably mounted to the dash panel, with a first end engaging the upper end of the pedal arm and a second impact end extending opposite the first end; and

10 a striking member disposed opposite the impact end of the lever such that deformation of the dash panel in response to a collision causes the striking member to strike the impact end of the lever which pivots such that the first end pulls the pedal arm to a retracted position.

15 8. The pedal apparatus of claim 7, wherein the pedal arm and lever are pivotably mounted to a bracket securable to the dash panel.